



New Marshalls brings opportunities to town

HANNAH CLAYWELL
News Editor | @Hannah_9504

A Marshalls has opened in town, and it was celebrated with a grand opening at the store at 8 a.m. Oct. 12 at 1826 S. Main St. The store mainly sells clothing, but also some home goods.

City Manager Greg McDanel worked with Retail Strategies, LLC on getting this business to Maryville. The President of Marshalls Tim Miner has talked about the Maryville location opening in a press release.

“Our newest store in Maryville will offer an ever-changing selection of high-quality, on-trend and brand-name merchandise at the amazing prices that Marshalls is known for,” Miner said in the release. “We’re excited to bring this experience and exceptional values from fashion and beauty to home and more to a new neighborhood. With thousands of new items delivered to our stores every day, we strive to provide our shoppers with amazing brands every time they shop.”

McDanel said it takes a lot of time and effort to get large businesses to town, and they had been trying to fill the space Marshalls is located at since 2017 when J.C. Penney announced its closure.

“All new business is great,” McDanel said. “We encourage both smaller businesses and large scale national corporate chains like Marshalls, but any additional economic sales in our community brings sales tax dollars to a variety of local initiatives.”

McDanel said that clothing was one of the retail gaps that Maryville had, and Marshalls is going to be able to fill that gap.

“Now again, we’ve got a lot of fantastic local business that provides clothing

on maybe a smaller scale, but Marshalls is gonna bring a lot of additional opportunities, not just for the citizens who live in Maryville, but also for the surrounding communities that will come here and shop,” McDanel said.

“

Marshalls is gonna bring a lot of additional opportunities, not just for the citizens who live in Maryville, but also for the surrounding communities that will come here and shop,”

GREG MCDANEL
CITY MANAGER

McDanel said while people are shopping at Marshalls, they could also be spending additional tax dollars within the community. Nodaway County Economic Development Executive Director Josh McKim said Marshalls will hopefully draw more people to Maryville.

McKim said there will probably be opinions both in support and against the opening of a large corporation chain in Maryville, but this is an opportunity to pull people into the community.

SEE MARSHALLS | A4

ILLUSTRATION BY SAVANNAH ATHY-SEDBROOK DESIGN EDITOR

Officers save lives, receive awards at Council meeting

HANNAH CLAYWELL
News Editor | @Hannah_9504

The Maryville City Council meeting brought a full house to the Maryville Public Safety building at the Oct. 9 meeting to discuss awards.

Maryville Police Department Officers Josh McMillen and Matt McMillen, and Nodaway County Sheriff’s Department Captain Austin Hann were rewarded with what Police Chief Ron Christian called “the greatest honor an officer can get.” They received the Law Enforcement Life Saving Award.

Recently, the departments have received a couple of life-threatening calls. Christian said the department was notified of a man out at Mozingo Lake Recreation Park who had gone out in the water with the purpose

of committing suicide Aug. 31. Hann and Josh McMillen responded to this call.

“I believe that without the direct intervention of these officers, that this gentleman would have lost his life,” Christian said.

Josh McMillen had swam out into the lake after the man was seen struggling to stay above water, and Hann provided them with a rope to bring them back to shore. Christian presented the Law Enforcement Life Saving Award to Josh McMillen, and Sheriff Randy Strong presented the award to Hann.

This was not the only incident that has happened in the last couple of weeks. In the early morning of Sept. 25, there was a call that gave the department little information, and Josh McMillen and Matt McMillen went out to investigate.



Nodaway County Sheriff’s Department Captain Austin Hann receives the prestigious Law Enforcement Life Saving Award from Sheriff Randy Strong during the City Council meeting Oct. 9.

Also located at Mozingo Lake Recreation Park, there was a man fishing and his boat started to fill with water, so he tried to get back to shore. On his way, the boat hit something, and the man was ejected. He then had to try to swim back to shore and made it to a tree where he clung and tried to reach the police. The phone call only gave the department his location.

They found the man clinging to the tree and were able to bring him back to the shore safely.

“As someone who is rapidly approaching a time when he will enter the civilian force himself, it encourages me and makes me very proud and humbled to serve alongside such tremendous men and women,” Christian said.

SEE CITY COUNCIL | A4

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SIDNEY LOWRY EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Loralet Prell rides a mechanical bull while her family watches and cheers her on. Prell and her family traveled from Marysville, Kansas, to spend the day at the Northwest Missouri Moon Festival.



ALLISON DUARTE PHOTOGRAPHER
Kendrick Ruminer watches the leaning block tower in anticipation while Kendall Moad takes her turn in their game of giant Jenga.



NIAH KAHLANDT PHOTOGRAPHER
Guitarist Chris Hicks performs a solo on stage in front of a large crowd at the Maryville Moon Festival Oct. 7.

Festival has successful second year

SIDNEY LOWRY
Editor-in-Chief | @sidney_lowry

The second annual Northwest Missouri Moon Festival brought live music, activities and food to Maryville Oct. 5.

The space behind The Hangar, now called “The Cove,” held over 12 hours of different activities throughout the day. The festival started off with a carshow, but quickly was followed by many more activities like mechanical bull riding, rock climbing, ax throwing, face painting and inflatables for families to enjoy throughout the day.

Live music performances started just after noon and continued throughout the night until 11 p.m. Dixie Cadillacs kicked off the show, followed by Dirt Road Addiction, Steven Bankey and the Flatland Band, Ned Ledoux, and closed the night with the Marshall Tucker Band.

After finding out about the event from their father on Facebook, Loralet and Ariel Prell traveled nearly three hours from their homes in Marysville, Kansas, with many other members of their family to enjoy the

day at the Moon Festival.

“In general, it is really neat,” Loralet Prell said. “Like having music the whole day and a place for the kids to play.”

Loralet Prell said she and her sisters grew up listening to Chris Ledoux, so they were excited to see Ned Ledoux perform.

Jennifer Jelinek was working one of the merchandise booths for Dirt Road Addiction. Her son, Riley Jelinek, is the guitarist for the band, so she said she sometimes is recruited to help out at their performances.

“It’s fantastic,” Jennifer Jelinek said. “It’s the funnest thing ever, but this is a really great turnout. I’ll tell you I mean, you guys have done a great job. It looks like it’s gonna be a lot of fun and a lot of people.”

Food vendors, like Jackson’s Paninis, El Nopal, Kona Ice, Frozen Frenzy’s Soft Serve and more were set up throughout the festival grounds. Alongside them, children had their faces painted and hair done for the festival for free.

Rebecca Lawson attended the festival with her family because she was looking for

something fun to do with her family.

She said having an event like this with a combination of activities and live music is a great option for someone in Maryville to do with their family on the weekend.

It seemed many families were there for the activities, but migrated over to the stage for the array of live music throughout the day. Marsha Lager was invited to attend the festival with her family and friends and said she was looking forward to the performances.

Michelle and Darren Blakely traveled from St. Joseph to attend the festival with their daughter after she won tickets on the radio.

“It’s pretty different,” Michelle Blakely said about the second year of the festival. “It’s a good start, though. It looks like they’re having fun. We enjoyed the ax throwing, we always like that. We do that in St. Joe, so that was fun.”

After the event, the Northwest Missouri Moon Festival Facebook page posted a thank you to everyone who attended, and said it is looking forward to next year for a bigger and better festival.

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Thomson Splash ‘N’ Play park adds features with renovations

DAKOTA OSWALT
News Reporter | @doswalt_NWMSRN

The Thomson Splash ‘N’ Play park recently underwent renovations, adding a new playground next to the splash pad.

The splash pad portion of the park, located at 1812 S. Munn Ave., was opened in 2021 after Dick and Kay Thomson decided to give back to the Maryville community. They wanted the playground portion included with the splash pad, but because of how expensive it would have been, they held off for a while.

Shortly after the grand opening, Dick Thomson died before seeing the park come to life. So earlier this year, his wife and family, including his children Doug Thomson and Jennifer Strueby, decided to continue the legacy and keep the park going strong.

The splash pad portion closes each October as colder weather sets in. Doug Thomson said his mom wanted the park to be used year-round, which is where the idea of adding a playground came into play.

“She wanted to see something that could keep the kids entertained if they weren’t in the water and just to further the enjoyment of the parkgoers,” Doug Thomson said.

New climbing structures, swing sets and seating areas are

included in the new renovations. Thomson said the playground is only limited by a child’s imagination as far as how it can be used.

The park is easily accessible for all people to use because of its terraces. It is also free for all to use.

“That was part of the idea as well, to serve everyone in the community,” Thomson said. “We’re very fortunate to have an example like mom and dad.”

Jennifer Strueby said her mom loves to see all the kids play and have fun in every part of the park. People approach her often, telling her how much they love coming to the park with their kids and grandkids.

“I drive by it quite a bit, and I see people here often,” Strueby said. “They’ve sent pictures and videos showing how much the kids enjoy it.”

Thomson and Strueby had a lot of say in what new equipment was coming to the park. They picked out the structures that were on the splash pad itself. They also decided that the playground should not have a theme, to keep the imagination aspect alive. Thomson’s daughter-in-law helped with deciding on what new playground equipment should be added.

While the new playground only took a few months to be added on, the original splash pad went through a longer process in order for it to be built.

They started by meeting with

companies to get design ideas for the space, and then continued with the underground work and filtration system. It took longer than expected, due in large part to COVID-19 and later, delayed shipment of parts.

The Thomson family said they think the long process was worth it in the end because the park has quickly become a popular attraction.

“It’s something different, and it’s on a side of town where there aren’t a whole lot of parks,” Strueby said. “I just think it’s great for the community, and I love that so many people have said how much they enjoy it.”

Along with the park’s positive reputation, it has also left the Thomson family impacted. Strueby said Kay Thomson is thrilled by the recent additions, and she and her brother know her late husband would have loved it too.

The new playground is just one of many new features added to the park. Earlier this year, a new picnic shelter was built with donations from the Maryville Host Lions and Pride Lions clubs and the Maryville Rotary Club. The bathroom facility was built with the help of a grant from the Gladys M. Rickard Charitable Trust, and the free guest wifi was donated by United Fiber. The City of Maryville and Maryville Parks and Recreation also helped pay for the new additions.

Program shows importance of inclusivity

RAIEA SALERNO
News Reporter | @RaieaS

Justice, equity, diversity and inclusion are four of the most important factors for navigating life, individual communication and experiences and communications within careers.

Last year, Northwest developed the Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (J.E.D.I.) program, which prepares and educates students about the importance of inclusive topics and conversations for future leaders and advocacy.

J.E.D.I. offers three levels to complete: awareness, understanding and implementing. The Office of Diversity and Inclusion runs the program, and any student that wishes to participate may join. The only prerequisite to joining is to have a mindset and the willingness to learn.

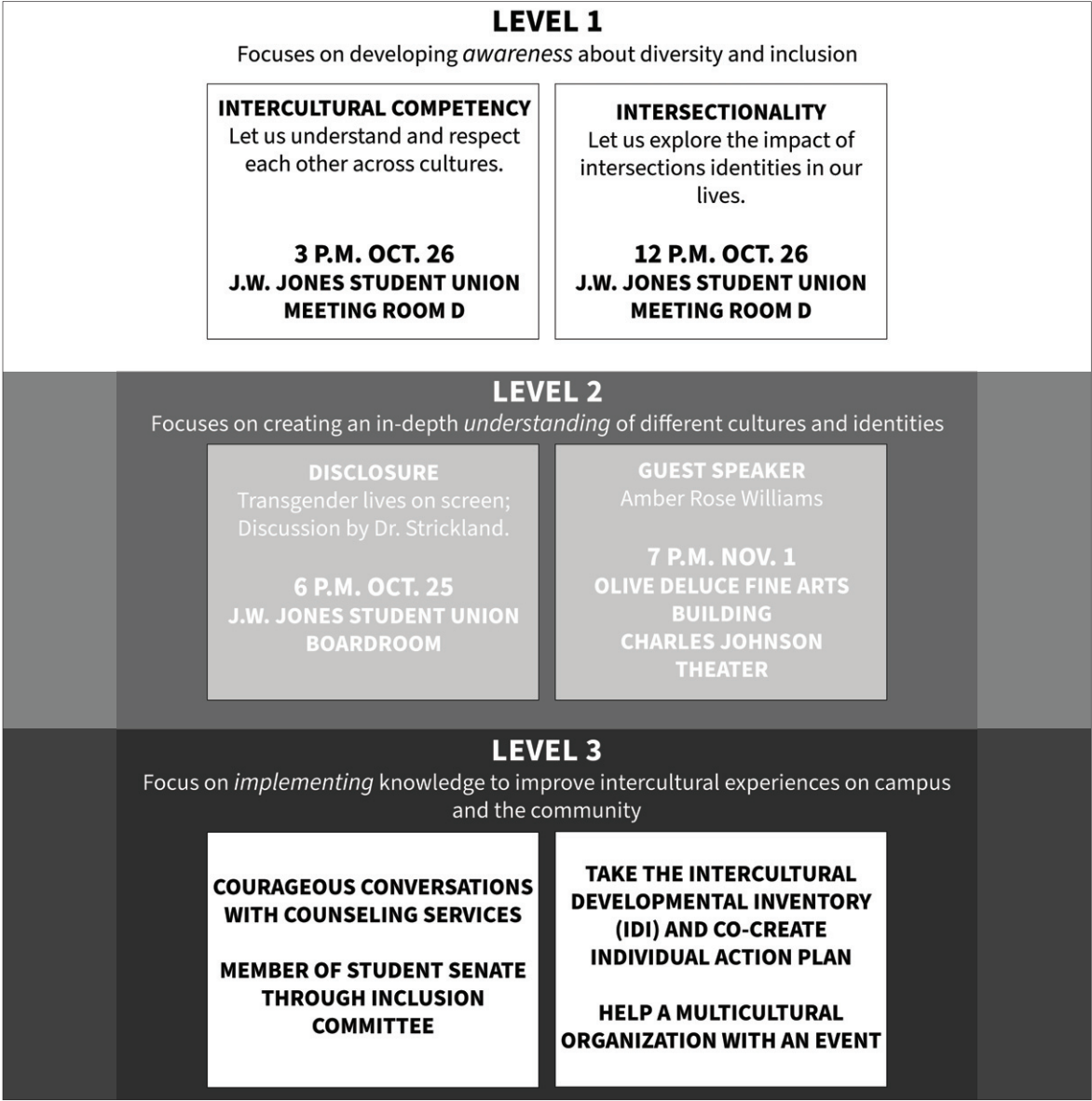
Senior Coordinator of Diversity Jessie Peter organizes the program under the ODI.

“J.E.D.I. helps students develop awareness about their own culture and identities and facilitates an inclusive mindset,” Peter said. “This not only helps students thrive in their careers but also in navigating our diverse world.”

The three levels of J.E.D.I. awarded the participants with a certificate of completion. This certificate can be used on future resumes. This also is an experience that students can attend for the Career Pathing Program for student employment.

Level one of the J.E.D.I. program focuses on developing an awareness of inclusion and culture. The first two events, Implicit Thoughts and Intent vs. Impact, have been completed recently, but the next event is Intersectionality, a conversation that helps people understand awareness of their own positions in society. It will be at noon Oct.

LEVELS OF BEING A J.E.D.I. MEMBER



INFOGRAPHIC BY JULIANNA LAWRENCE ASST. DESIGN EDITOR

students must complete all four events. Since the program is self-paced, students have the chance to join in the next semester or spread out their events during their time at Northwest.

Level two of the J.E.D.I. program focuses on creating an understanding of different cultures and identities. This includes attending any history month event the ODI offers. Students must go to at least eight events to complete this level.

Some upcoming events include a “Love is Love” bracelet making from 6-8 p.m. Oct. 18 in the J.W. Jones Student Union Boardroom, a viewing of “Disclosure: Trans Lives on Screen” from 6-8 p.m. Oct. 25 in the Boardroom and guest speaker Amber Rose Williams from 7-8 p.m. Nov. 1 in the Olive DeLuce Fine Arts Building Charles Johnson Theater.

Level three of the J.E.D.I. program focuses on implementing the learned knowledge in the real world through campus and community. This can include helping a multicultural club with an event, taking the Intercultural Development Inventory or having conversations with Counseling Services. The Intercultural Development Inventory is an assessment that tests intercultural competence.

Employers often look for applicants that have skills within intercultural communication and understanding and are often measured in application processes with this knowledge. J.E.D.I. offers a range of experiences and learning opportunities for the particular reason of open mindedness toward individuals and different group experiences.

“I encourage all students to participate in J.E.D.I.,” Peter said.



SUBMITTED KENDRIC SANTOS-BRIGGS
Theatre Northwest member Hannah Meyer shows off their acting during the scene “The Pandaroo,” in the play “Launch Day (Love Stories from the Year 2108).” In this scene, Meyer portrayed the character Brittley.

Northwest holds 33rd annual first-year students production

ANNA BAILEY
News Reporter | @AmBailey16

The first theater production this school year was “Launch Day (Love Stories from the Year 2108),” which was performed Oct. 5 to Oct. 8, with a special performance for the theater appreciation class Oct. 4.

“Launch Day (Love Stories from the Year 2108)” is a futuristic story that includes a variety of scenes from different characters, all including futuristic problems or themes. This was not a typical ensemble play, it included a series of two-person scenes that had their own plot all with the connected idea that it was the launch day of a space mission to a new planet with similar conditions to Earth.

It was also a new show for any university to produce as this play was just recently published to be performed in July 2023, making Northwest the first University to put on this production.

This was the 33rd annual first-year production, which meant that all of the characters were played by first-year students and a majority of the primary technical theater roles were also held by first-year students.

Freshman Aura Lynch was the assistant stage manager for this production. For her role, she helped the directors and the actors prepare for the show by moving sets and helping actors with their lines and blocking.

Lynch said she felt since this show only consists of two person scenes, at the beginning it felt very disconnected, but as rehearsals continued and the show came together, everyone involved got really close.

“I’m really proud of everything that has happened,” Lynch said. “Seeing the first day to now, everybody’s just gotten so good and I think it all

came together really well.”

Another aspect that went into the preparation of the show was the actors got the opportunity to have a Zoom meeting with Michael Higgins, the playwright of the show, where they were able to talk to him about his thoughts of the play.

Director of the play, as well as Chair of Performing Arts and theater professor, Joe Kreizinger said having the playwright was a great opportunity for the cast to learn about the play as well as continue to develop the show.

Kreizinger said that for any show, the director has their original image of what the result will be, but this image will most likely change as more people are involved in the development of the show.

“It kind of grows, and I think it usually turns out in some ways better than what you imagined,” Kreizinger said. “When you get the design team together and everyone brings their own ideas, and of course the actors bring in lots of things that I wouldn’t have thought of.”

Common themes in this play included impacts of our expanding and changing world, some of these were misuse of artificial intelligence, global warming and misuse of substances. However, in the end, the lead character who was supposed to leave Earth to help colonize a new planet decides to stay in spite of these growing problems. Kreizinger said he hopes the audience feels a sense of aspiration leaving this play.

“I think people go away hopeful there’s still hope for this planet,” Kreizinger said. “And I think that is shown when the one of the two primary characters at the end decides it’s worth staying, instead of going off to help colonize a new planet elsewhere.”

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NAIAH KAHLANDT PHOTOGRAPHER
Sophomore class president Riley Steele and sophomore class representative Allison McCord give a presentation to fellow Student Senate members about the updated document of Senate bylines before a vote is made to make the list official Oct. 10.

Student Senate talks bylaw update

DAKOTA OSWALT
News Reporter | @doswalt_NWMSRN

Student Senate discussed possible amendments to the by-laws and swore in new members at the Oct. 10 meeting.

The Committee of Governmental Affairs worked closely with the Student Senate Executive President Elizabeth Motazedi to start revising the bylaws. The revisions have not yet been voted on, but Motazedi said many of the bylaws were outdated.

“Our bylaws needed desperate help,” she said. “One of my goals this year was to really just deconstruct them and make them better.”

The bylaws still used the term trimester, even though Northwest has been using a semester system since 1952. This, among other inconsistencies, prompted the revision. Motazedi said she and other representatives spent over three

hours making corrections.

Governmental Affairs Co-Chairs Allison McCord and Riley Steele then presented to the Senate all of the potential amendments that will be ready to vote on soon. This included rewording some sections for clarity and adding new rules altogether.

One proposed new rule would signify that if a person was running for a specific position, they would not be able to change their declaration thereafter.

“Last year, it would be like halfway through voting, and we would have people change their candidacy,” Motazedi said. “It was really confusing. We’re making it to, now, once you say what you’re voting for, you said what you want to be on the ballot. You can’t change that. It just has a lot a lot more consistency.”

There was talk of adding a co-sponsorship policy to allow for the Student Senate to be in-

involved financially with other organizations and Northwest departments. In the past, the Senate has had no room in its budget to give to departments in need of money. The new proposed approach could have changed that, but the discussion about the co-sponsorship policy was tabled.

They are planning to pass the bylaws at the next Senate meeting, besides the one that was tabled, since no members reported any concerns.

Northwest’s Pre-Law Society lost its status as a group last year after its advisor, Daniel Smith, died. President Sophia Sander, Vice President Josh Holmes and Treasurer Ryan Campbell presented to the Senate, aiming to become an official organization within the school again.

Although it has not been an official group for a while, the Pre-Law Society has not stopped hosting and attending many

events each year.

“Every February, the Western District of Missouri Supreme Court appellate judges come to campus, and we host them for a luncheon,” Sander said. “It’s a really cool experience to have.”

The group went on to explain the society’s fundraising events and talked about their weekly meetings and LSAT study sessions. Afterward, the Senate voted to make the Pre-Law Society an official Northwest organization once again.

The meeting ended with freshmen Neema Omona and Emily Thrash being nominated and sworn in as the new inclusion representatives. Freshman Cecilia Hadley was nominated and sworn in as an associate member.

Senate will not meet Oct. 17 because of the Homecoming duties the members have, Motazedi said she did not want to add more to their schedules.

CRIME LOG

for the week of Oct. 12

Northwest Missouri State University Police Department

- Oct. 9**
There is a closed investigation for a drug law violation in Franken Hall.
There is a closed investigation for a fire alarm in Hudson and Perrin Hall.
There is a closed investigation for a fire alarm in Colden Hall.
There is a closed investigation for a fire alarm in Colden Hall.
- Oct. 7**
There is an open investigation for harassment in the J.W. Jones Student Union.

MORE INFO

A student threatened to fight another student through text, no charges are being pursued. The same student was yelling in the J.W. Jones Student Union and it was perceived that the student wanted to fight. A summons to appear in Student Conduct was issued.

- There is a closed investigation for a fire alarm in Hudson Hall.
There is a closed investigation for a liquor law violation in Dieterich Hall.
- Oct. 6**
There is a closed investigation for a fire alarm in Franken Hall.
There is an open investigation for a hit-and-run vehicle accident in Parking Lot 42.
- Oct. 5**
There is a closed investigation for a vehicle accident with Morgan L. Wilmes, 19, in Parking Lot 38.
- Oct. 4**
There is an open investigation for stealing on campus.

CITY COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM A1

- Other City Council Business:**
- Angie Coleman Wier received approval to park her food truck for Cinnfull Gourmet Cinnamon Rolls from 7:30 a.m. to noon Oct. 21 in front of Black Pony Brewery on Fourth Street for the Northwest Homecoming Parade.
 - Council approved a lot split for a property on North Country Club Road.
 - Council approved the Stormwater Management Plan for Champion Xpress Car Wash, which would add a private detention basin to collect water.
 - Council approved a rental contract with All Sites Services, LLC for a McPherson Brush Burner.
 - Council approved a statement of work with Sikich, LLP for audit services, which can provide guidance to the city about various things.
 - Council approved full-service maintenance contracts with Maguire Iron, Inc. for the north, south and Edwards Street water towers.
 - Council approved to adopt the five strategic goals for Fiscal Year ’24, which are to efficiently implement improvements to the South Main corridor, enhance downtown revitalization efforts, finance and construct a new water treatment plan, invest in infrastructure and facilities and plan for Maryville’s future.



AARON HARE PHOTOGRAPHER
Nodaway County Sheriff’s Department Sheriff Randy Strong, Captain Austin Hann and Maryville Police Department officer Josh McMillen and Police Chief Ron Christian stand in front of the Maryville Public Safety building during the City Council meeting Oct. 9.

MARSHALLS

CONTINUED FROM A1

“When you’re somewhat of a smaller community and there’s not a big community right around you, that Walmart or that other big box will draw folks in and so adding Marshalls potentially draws more people and gets more people in the community,” McKim said. “Or it gets more people staying in the community to shop.”

McKim said he hopes the new Marshalls will make more of a connection with the college students, who might not be as aware of the dining and shopping opportunities in Maryville. He said having more business keeps more money in the community and captures more of the money being made in the community, and it creates good job opportunities.

The store plans to add around 60 full and part-time jobs and will be donating \$10,000 to Lettuce Dream, a local nonprofit organization that provides career education and opportunities to people with disabilities.

The store’s regular operating hours will be 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sundays.



ALEXIS STARKS PHOTO EDITOR
The new Marshalls store, located at 1826 S. Main St., had its grand opening at 8 a.m. Oct. 12. The store sells clothing items as well as some home goods.

Parking tags should not name locations



Out of all the colleges in Missouri, Northwest was named the safest in 2020. With a 24/7 police presence, a number of awareness programs and the Safe Ride Home program, it’s obviously a deserved title.

However, a school with such a big emphasis on safety should not overlook small details that could have major consequences — for example, parking passes.

At the beginning of the semester, students were required to purchase parking passes that allow them to park in certain places on campus. Different types of passes include residential, commuter and the Forest Village Apartments pass.

In years past, the University has allowed students to purchase either a sticker for their car windshield or a hangtag for their rearview mirror. This year, however, Forest Village residents were only given the option of a hangtag.

Now, this may sound like a small, insignificant detail, but as a woman in America, I have concerns. This hangtag tells anyone walking past my car that I live in Forest Village at Northwest. All of this information is right there in the open for anyone to see, all they need to add is my building and room number and anyone could find where I live.

While having a sticker would still have some of the same drawbacks, it at least wouldn’t include so much information.

A sticker parking pass includes the name of the University, an ID number and the expiration date of the pass. There are also different colors representing different types of passes. People living on campus may know what the different colors mean, but at least the random person walking past my car at Walmart wouldn’t.

It’s harder to see a sticker because it’s not a bright purple tag hanging in your window. To see the sticker you have to get up close to the car.

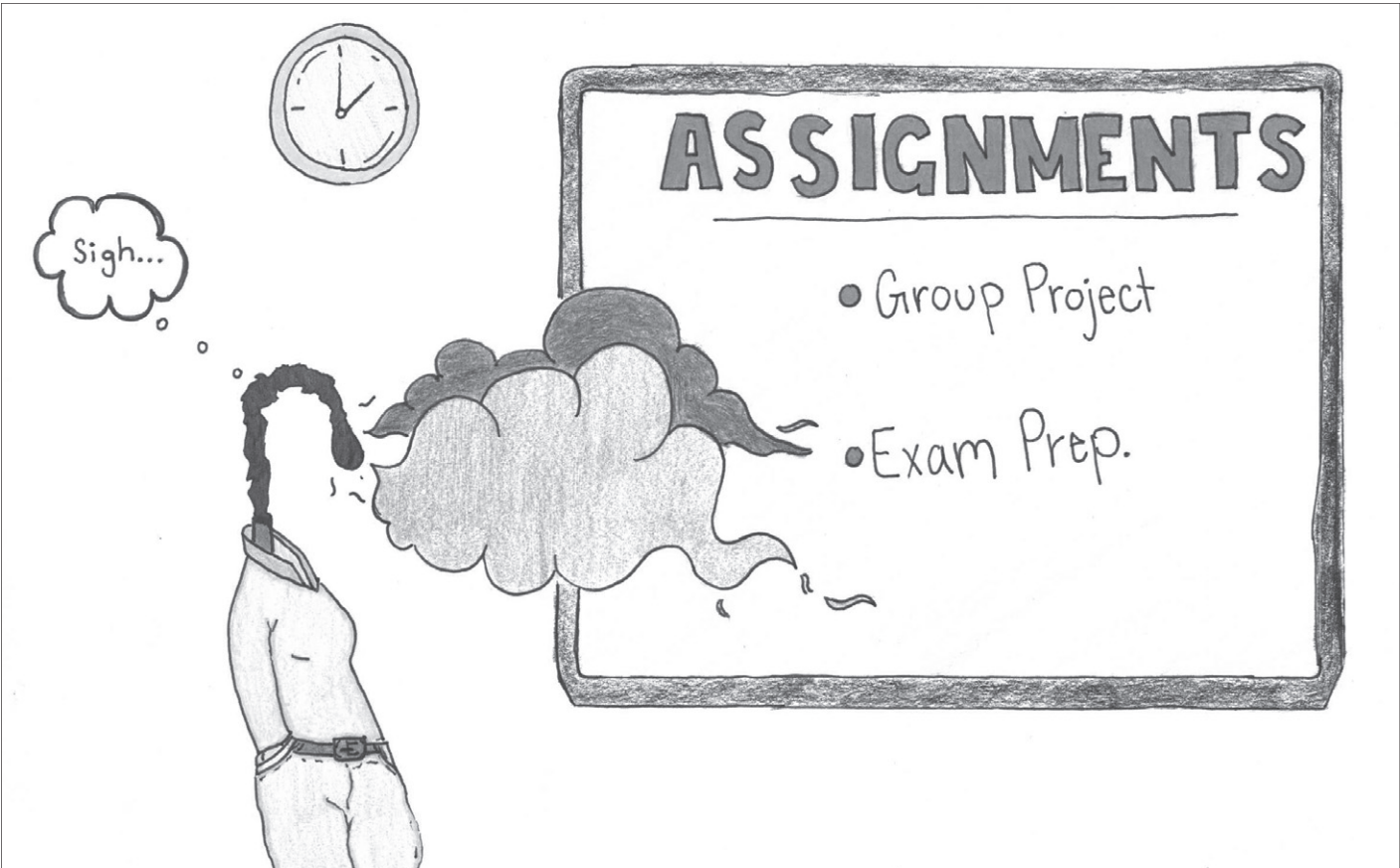
Forest Village residents only have one lot to park in that surrounds the buildings. This does not leave much room for questions if someone is looking for me. On top of this, they only have three buildings to choose from. It won’t take much deductive reasoning to figure out where I live.

To protect myself when I leave town, I always make sure to take the hangtag down for these same reasons. Doing this, however, led to me receiving a ticket because I forgot to put it back up when I got home.

Having a visible hangtag with personal information on it is enough to jeopardize the safety of any student living in Forest Village. The University should consider taking the building names off the tags since all the passes are color coded anyway.

If a hangtag is the only choice, then it should not include the apartment or the University name on it to protect residents.

Knowing such a small thing could have an impact on my life is terrifying. We may be in Maryville, but that doesn’t mean something can’t happen. This should not be another thing to worry about.



HALEY JOHNSON-NEESER CARTOONIST

OUR VIEW:

Post-pandemic teaching is causing significant burnout

It is October, and it’s around the time students and teachers prepare for activities like homecoming, Halloween and other holiday events. This year, though, has felt different than others.

Some professors have been consistently letting out students earlier, taking a long time to grade work and are less passionate about their profession. We are only two months into the school year and teachers and professors have felt burnout more than ever without help, so how come this is happening so early on?

There’s been a teacher turnover crisis in the past decade from unlivable wages, high burnout levels and rising violence to schools. About 51,000 teachers and educational professors quit their job in August of 2023, according to Statistica. Instructors are becoming lost in their own profession and are leaving their work behind.

With more educators leaving their careers behind, students across the nation have been suffering with a higher teacher-student ratio. With more students and fewer teachers, it is leaving students feeling unprepared and uneducated and leaving workers in education with high stress and an

overload of work.

The COVID-19 pandemic put students behind in their education. For those in their junior year of high school, this may not have had much impact, but for younger students in elementary school, this could have hindered development.

The pandemic impacted daily life, but also students in a physical, mental and educational way. Many children were completely lost in their academics when coming back to school because of two years of absence. Educational values and communication skills were diminished, and some students were not fully prepared for the transition of coming back to in-person learning.

Communication is a big skill that is learned within schools. Many students make different relationships and companionships when going to school. During COVID-19, everyone was locked in their houses and wasn’t able to make the connections they did before. This puts a big dent in lesson plans for all teachers because without those communication skills, teachers are lost in understanding how these students learn.

With students being lost in their ed-

ucation, it’s difficult for teachers to figure out where they stand and how to teach them. With students being behind in many social behaviors, these likely will need to be taught alongside the typical math and science lessons they had before the pandemic.

With the current climate, many don’t value the importance of teachers and professors to society. They bring the new generation into the world and prepare them for what’s to come. Many students who aren’t being treated right at home or who have troubles in their social life look to these teachers as a guidance to new beginnings. These are the people who show up for these kids when no one else does.

From COVID-19 transitioning to a new generation of kids coming in, it is difficult for them to keep up. These workers are underpaid and underappreciated, which is why there needs to be a change in the educational system.

This doesn’t only come down to administration making changes, but teachers adapting to the new type of students following the pandemic. Teachers need to be paid right and treated fairly, and students need better resources in order to transition into the world.

YOUR VIEW:

Do you have concerns with getting burned out in your first few years of teaching?

Layne McAlpin
Senior
Middle School
Education



“Personally, I don’t think that I’ll be burnt out because I’ve wanted to be a teacher my entire life. I’ve known that this is what I want to do, and I’m excited.”

Mattie Riemenschneider
Junior
Early Childhood
Education



“A little bit. Mainly because I don’t know the types of behaviors that the kids will have and how their parents will respond to my teaching methods. But I think leaning on and learning from the teachers that have more experience will be a big help.”

Abbie Johnson
Junior
Early Childhood
Education



“Yeah it’s definitely a big concern of mine. But I think you have to remember why you wanted to start teaching and think of the kids you’ll have an influence on. Also just seeking help. I’ve noticed school districts are focusing more on the mental health of their staff and students and providing them with the right resources, which is very encouraging.”

THE STROLLER:

Your Bearcat loves the Roman Empire

I was wondering if it was too late for me to write about the Roman Empire, but I am reminded of it by everything around me.

I take a shower, and I think about how we went from Roman aqueducts to pipes and just how far we have come. I’m on my way to class, and I thank the Romans for concrete.

I wish I was kidding, but I think about it literally every day, at least IV or V times, and I don’t think I will stop.

Why is this the thing that stuck with me? I couldn’t tell you. I never paid attention in my world history class, I thought I was in American history for at least the first month. But the second I heard about the Colosseum and them fighting lions in a chariot, I was hooked.

I didn’t know it was a universal experience until TikTok decided to enlighten me once again. The flood of people asking their boyfriends how often they think

about this groundbreaking time period is filling my For You Page and bringing me comfort.

If my every thought wasn’t consumed by the Roman Empire, I could probably find the cure to cancer with the brain space I’d gain. At least 70% of my brain power is going toward the impact the Roman Empire has had on my life.

The opposite side of this trend is what is the women’s version of the Roman Empire.

They’re thinking of things like the Princess Diana conspiracy, Pitch Perfect and, my personal favorite, the Salem Witch Trials.

This TikTok trend has made me feel so connected with the people that really understand me and my obsession with the Roman Empire.

The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of the Northwest Missourian.

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Maryville has won

years in a row.

BATTLE
CONTINUED FROM A8

“I grew up here, and I’ve coached here and coached in this Highway 71 showdown for a long time,” Webb said. “And, we’ve been fortunate enough to have it as of late, but our kids take a lot of pride in our rivalry like this.”

Maryville will host Savannah Oct. 13 in the ‘Hound Pound as the temperature is forecasted to drop toward 45 degrees, bringing a chill to the night and that piece of metal the rivals will battle it out on the gridiron for.

The Midland Empire Conference teams have competed for rankings, state tournaments and even district championships. But, for Webb and the Spoofhounds, it’s all in the past, and they’re ready for a chance to extend their ownership of the Highway 71 trophy.

Webb said the team’s focus doesn’t change whether it’s the beginning of the season, the end or the Highway 71 showdown. For the 11th-year coach, going 1-0 each week is the most important focus.

“All we have to focus on this week is, you know, beating Savannah,” Webb said. “That’s it. That’s the mental approach.”

After all the work the ‘Hounds and Savages have put in to this point, they’ll both enter Week 8 with a 6-1 record. Maryville is averaging 34.6 points per game while Savannah scores 38.9.

Leading the Savages’ offense is senior running back and defensive back Cade Chappell, who is ranked first in the MEC in rushing yards with 458. Maryville senior running back and defensive back Colton Eighmy is ranked seventh in MEC rushing yards with a total of 96.

“I’m going to work on getting in on the scout team some more this week during practice so that I can make myself better, but also help the defense continue to improve,” Eighmy said.

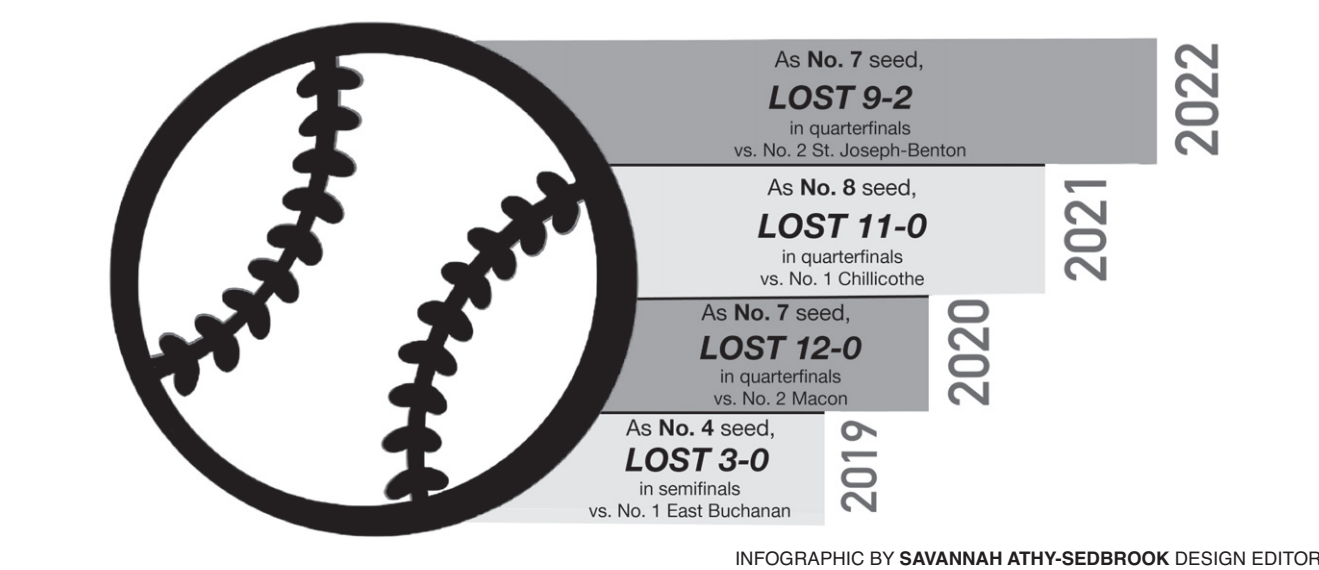
He said while the team is looking to continue its momentum from a 19-14 win against Class 4 Lutheran North Oct. 7, it needs to focus on the next game ahead while remaining humble.

The Savages have an extremely talented offense, Webb said, but the Spoofhounds’ defense will be prepared for the challenge.

The rivals will play for the Highway 71 trophy, but Eighmy said the streak the Spoofhounds hold over the Savages fuels their motivation more, even though Savannah also has a lot of passion.

“This is not only just because it is a huge rivalry game, but because it stands for the classes and guys that have played before us,” Eighmy said. “Webb always says tradition never graduates, and I think that title is a big example of that. At the end of the day, there are so many things that make this matchup such a big rivalry, and that streak is just another one that adds to the intensity.”

SPOOFHOUND SOFTBALL LAST FOUR DISTRICT TOURNAMENT RESULTS



DISTRICTS
CONTINUED FROM A8

This will be back-to-back seasons where Benton (11-10) has a chance to end Maryville’s (7-18) season. Last year, the Cardinals beat the ‘Hounds, 9-2, in their first round district matchup.

Maryville will head into its district matchup with a 13-game losing streak against Benton.

The Spoofhounds are still looking for their first win in the month of October. First-year coach Tyler Nickerson said this season has not gone how he or his players had planned it would go, but he is excited for the opportunity to coach his first playoff game.

“I would take these girls up against anyone else,” Nickerson said. “I think the fight they have shown throughout this season has been impressive.”

Nickerson said he understands the challenge of the playoffs, but the faith he has in his players to make the crucial plays will never waiver.

Maryville’s six losses have been over the past 12 days, which has left the team with almost no opportunity to practice. The Spoofhounds will have just two days between games to prepare for the rematch. Nickerson said the team’s practices over the next few days are going to be good for the team.

“The best ability is availability, and so we are also going to make sure everyone is fresh for Thursday,” Nickerson said.

son said. “The goal over the next couple of days will be to try and save minutes on the girl’s arms. I’m just going to preach the fundamentals over the next few days, the girls know what they are doing and the execution is key.”

The Spoofhounds lost their regular season finale, 10-5, to DeKalb (3-18) Oct. 9.

Eckley said many of the players are ready to get a bounce-back win to keep the season alive.

“It was a tough loss, but the energy was high because we knew it was the seniors’ last home game,” Eckley said. “If we can bring this energy on Thursday, I think it’ll be a good game. I think we play them well, and the game will be competitive throughout.”



ALEXIS STARKS PHOTO EDITOR
Maryville boys soccer sophomore Tuan Jacobson crosses the ball to a teammate for him to get a shot on goal during the 4-0 win against St. Joseph-Benton Oct. 3.

HOME
CONTINUED FROM A8

Next, the Spoofhounds will return home for the second matchup of the season with Savannah. Maryville won the first, 6-1, Sept. 18 in Savannah, Missouri, and will look to sweep the Savages for the second time in three years.

Being at home has worked in the Spoofhounds’ favor, as they are 3-0 at Bearcat Pitch this year. St. Pius X is the last team to defeat Maryville at home with a 5-3 win Oct. 26, 2020.

The ‘Hounds had two matches in the KC Showcase against Lincoln College Prep Oct. 5 and against Barstow Oct. 6 at Pembroke Hill High School in Kansas City, Missouri.

Their first match against the Blue Tigers ended in a 3-2 win in double overtime off of a penalty kick from senior center attacking midfielder Kason Teale.

Maryville went into its second match of the tournament looking to avenge its first loss of the season Sept. 2 — at the hands of the Knights. Instead, the Spoofhounds were faced with a familiar result, having their 10-game win streak snapped by a 1-0 loss to Barstow.

Stoecklein said he is working with his team on what needs to be improved from the Barstow match.

“Well, we had trouble controlling the ball with their kind of speed and quickness,” Stoecklein said. “So that’s something we got to work on is just controlling the ball better and making better passing decisions under stress.”

With the Class 1 District 8 Tournament coming up Oct. 30-Nov. 1, the Spoofhounds are 11-2 overall and are 5-0 against MEC foes. In the five conference matches so far for Maryville, the team has given up a mere two goals — one against Savannah.

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NORTHWEST
CONTINUED FROM A8

It’ll be a battle of strengths between the two, with Northwest at No. 9 in Division II — top of the MIAA — in rushing yards allowed per game at 68.2. Western is first in the conference in rushing yards per game with 223.7.

The Griffons’ run attack has also propelled the team to the top scoring offense in the MIAA with an average of 43.8 points per contest. The Bearcats are sixth in points allowed (22.7).

“They’re extremely productive and explosive,” Wright said of the Griffons. “We’re gonna have to play a great game.”

Northwest does also have recent success against a strong rushing team, after holding then-Division II’s ninth-leading rusher, Central Oklahoma junior running back Trevon Woolfolk, to just 32 yards in its 34-21 win Oct. 7.

Northwest’s own rushing success has been led by sophomore running back Jay Harris, who is No. 3 in Division II in rushing yards with 842.

After a career day against the Bronchos (2-4, 2-4 MIAA), with 274 yards on the ground and four touchdowns, Harris was selected as the latest MIAA Offensive Player of the Week.

The Bearcats and Griffons’ rivalry is still a little new to senior wide receiver Ra’Shoud Shelton, who transferred to Northwest from Mt. San Jacinto College prior to the 2022 season.

Northwest’s next game will be his first trip to St. Joseph and only his second time against



AARON HARE PHOTOGRAPHER
Senior offensive lineman Andrew Theobald lifts up sophomore linebacker Carter Olesen in celebration after a solo tackle during the 34-21 win Oct. 7. Olesen had three solo tackles throughout the game.

the Griffons — recording just a 3-yard reception in the first.

“They’re definitely a physical bunch,” Shelton said. “We were told they play way harder than they did the year before, but that just makes us prepare better — prepare harder.”

As Western is No. 11 out of 12 MIAA teams in passing yards given up per game (304), Shelton and the rest of the receiving corps will be looking for a big game against the Griffons.

Even in his short time with the Bearcats, Shelton said he’s been able to really buy into the program because of those around him.

“I feel like it’s a real family environment,” Shelton said. “These guys out here are my brothers.”

Even though the Menifee, California, native may be far from home, he said he’s felt the love in his stint with Northwest — from his team and the community. He said he’s noticed a distinct difference between the West Coast and the Midwest.

“I will say they love sports more than California,” Shelton said. “They go hard for their sports. They go hard for us, they go hard for the (Kansas City) Chiefs. ... And people are nicer out here. The hospitality is better out here.”



NIAH KAHLANDT PHOTOGRAPHER
Maryville volleyball junior right side hitter Claire Nickerson and sophomore middle blocker Abigail Bowe block a spike from St. Joseph-Benton junior opposite hitter Andrea Simmons during the Spoofhounds’ 3-0 loss Oct. 5.

Maryville volleyball eyes next district tournament

AIDAN BROCKLEMAN
Sports Reporter | @BrocklemanAidan

Before the Class 3 District 16 Tournament takes place Oct. 17-23, there is one more regular season match for Maryville volleyball. The Spoofhounds’ regular season finale will also serve as their last home game. They’ll host Midland Empire Conference and district foe Chillicothe at 7 p.m. Oct. 12 — a team they swept in the Lawson Spikefest Oct. 7.

The ’Hounds will face the Hornets for a third time in their first-round district matchup at 5 p.m. Oct. 17 in Cameron, Missouri. The ’Hounds have a 10-game win streak against the Hornets.

First-year coach and former Northwest volleyball player Alyssa Rezac said she can’t wait for the next matchup against Chillicothe.

“I think it’s gonna be a dog-fight,” Rezac said. “Hoping our girls can compete with theirs and do what we do and hoping for our best.”

The Spoofhounds (11-17-2) are ranked fifth in their district bracket. They’ve won an average of 1.35 sets per match and have allowed their foes to average 1.74 sets won per match.

Maryville’s potential path to a district championship for the first time since 2020 will not be easy. Should the Spoofhounds advance past the fourth-seeded Hornets, top-

seeded Savannah (19-2-5) — who will have the first round off — will be waiting.

Senior defensive specialist Jillian Bagley said it becomes more about fine-tuning when preparing for the postseason.

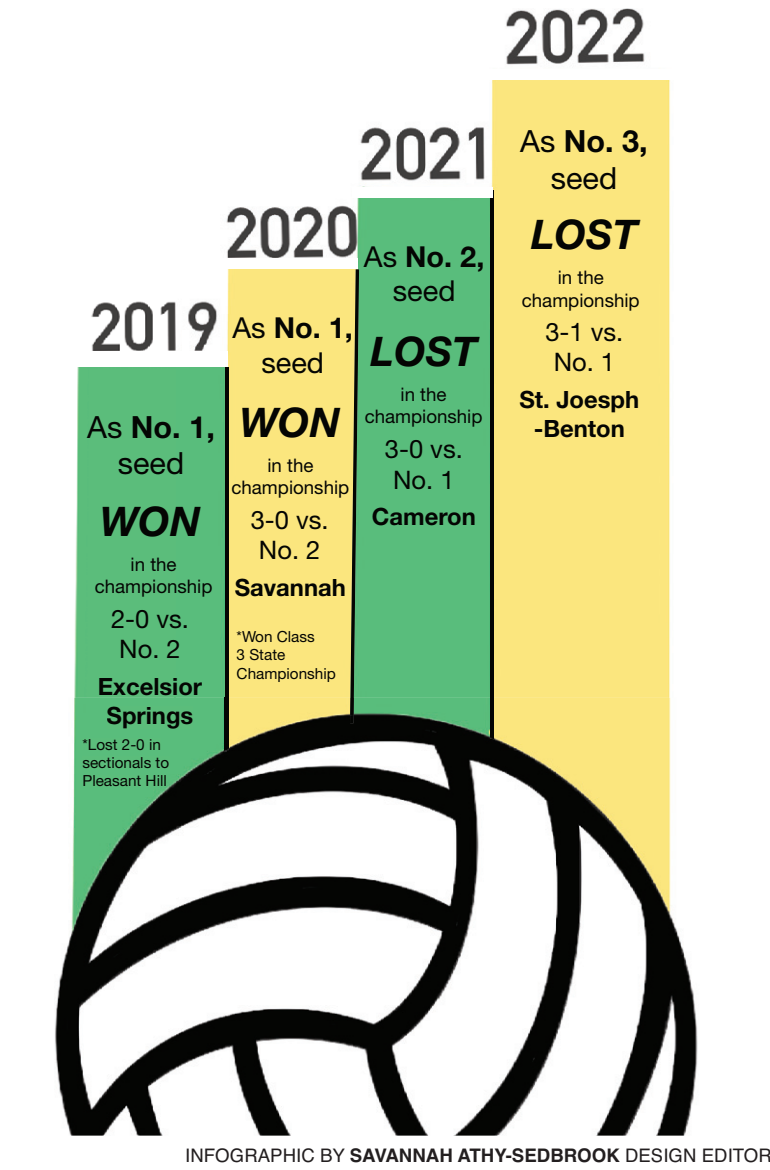
“Putting everything together, working on making smarter decisions, and overall making connections,” Bagley said.

In their match with Chillicothe, the Spoofhounds will be looking to pull themselves out of a rough stretch after losing five of their last seven matches.

They were swept by St. Joseph-Benton (12-8-2) in the Spoofhounds’ pink-out game Oct. 5.

The next match ended with Maryville’s own sweep over South Harrison (5-12) Oct.

SPOOFHOUND VOLLEYBALL LAST FOUR DISTRICT TOURNAMENT RESULTS



9 in Bethany, Missouri. The triumph extended the Spoofhounds’ win streak against the Bulldogs to six.

Through the week, Rezac said she will be working on some of the mistakes from both of those contests.

“Just continuing to be able to side out at a high level, and, just, block line ups, standing in front of hitters and give our defense the best chance to get the ball up,” Rezac said.

Maryville’s fourth tournament of the season was the Lawson Spikefest, where the team went 1-2. The Spoofhounds won against the Hornets, 3-0, in their first game. The next two were against Lawson and Lafayette County, where the ’Hounds

UP NEXT
MHS vs. Chillicothe
7 p.m. Oct. 12
Maryville High School

Class 3 District 16 Tournament
5 p.m. Oct. 17
Cameron, Missouri

lost 3-2 in both.

Maryville returned home for a 3-0 loss to St. Pius X Oct. 10. The Spoofhounds have lost four straight matches to the Warriors. Even with the defeat, Rezac said she saw some good things about how the ’Hounds played.

“I thought our defense was really scrappy and got a lot of balls up,” Rezac said. “I’m really proud of their efforts.”

Bearcats receive first rankings at basketball media day

WESLEY MILLER
Managing Editor | @wesleymiller360

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Northwest men’s basketball will open the 2023-24 season as the favorites to win the MIAA in the conference’s preseason coaches and media polls.

Northwest, as well as the rest of the 13 schools in the conference, took part in the MIAA Basketball Media Day Oct. 10 at the College Basketball Experience in Kansas City, Missouri. The preseason rankings were announced, and coaches and players answered questions about their teams.

Nearly seven months ago, the Bearcats’ historic three-time defending national title run came to an end in the Central Region Semifinals at the hands of Southern Nazarene. But, the program did secure its 10th-consecutive MIAA regular season title in the 2022-23 campaign, as well as its seventh conference tournament title in eight seasons.

Soon, Northwest will be looking to add to its trophy case again, with the new season set to begin in the Hillyard Tipoff Classic Nov. 10-11 in St. Joseph.

“We had a pretty good preseason — a lot of effort,” coach Ben McCollum said. “I feel like we’re in pretty good shape.”

It’s a new era for the Bearcats. For the first time in five seasons, Northwest is without Diego Bernard and Luke Waters — the last players to be part of the Bearcats’ entire three-time defending title run.

The accolades for Bernard seem almost endless. The St. Joseph native won Central Region Player of the Year, MIAA Player of the Year and MIAA Defensive Player of the Year twice.

His impact on Northwest goes further than awards, though. Bernard is the program’s all-time leading rebounder with 962 boards. He’s No. 2 in career steals (276), No. 3 in career points (2,205), No. 3 in career assists (521) and No. 10 in career blocks (57).

But, this situation is nothing new for McCollum, who is set to enter his 15th season at the helm of the program.

Five of the program’s top-10 leading scorers have begun and ended their collegiate careers under McCollum’s guidance, including Houston Rocket and Northwest’s all-time leader in points, Trevor Hudgins (2019-22).

“Luke, obviously, is another 6’7” guy that can shoot, and we love those — we’ll have as many of those as we can on our roster,” McCollum said. “Then Diego, just from an energy, toughness, winning — all those intangibles — standpoint, he’s as good as we’ve ever had. I don’t think you can necessarily just replace it with one guy.”

For the MIAA preseason coaches poll, Northwest men’s basketball was slated at

No. 1

For the MIAA preseason coaches poll, Northwest women’s basketball was slated at

No. 7

Even with Bernard and Waters’ departure, the Bearcats are not without experience on their roster. The team returns three of its starters from a season ago, including two-time national champion, senior forward Wes Dreamer.

Dreamer is 279 points away from entering Northwest’s top 10 himself. He’s averaged 434

points in the past two seasons.

Another key returner for the ’Cats is 2022-23 MIAA Freshman of the Year, sophomore guard Bennett Stirtz. Last season, Stirtz topped the conference in field goal percentage (60.1%) and was No. 3 in steals per game at 1.9.

While the season isn’t here yet, McCollum said the chemistry on the team has been great to see.

“I think sometimes there needs to be opportunities for discomfort, and that’s the hardest part with this group, is creating that uncomfortable feeling so you can grow,” McCollum said. “So, we find ways to do that in the preseason through the practices and hopefully agitate them enough that they can grow.”

Bearcat women’s basketball was slated at No. 6 in the conference’s preseason media poll and at No. 7 in the preseason coaches poll.

The Bearcats finished eighth in the MIAA standings — with a record of 9-13 — a season ago and won their first-round game in the conference tournament for the first time since 2020.

For the first time since coach Austin Meyer took over the helm of the program prior to the 2018-19 season, the Bearcats decreased the conference win total from the campaign before.

They’ll start their journey to re-establishing the pattern as the new season begins in the Southwest Minnesota State Classic Nov. 10-11 in Marshall, Minnesota.

“I’m happy with where we’re at right now,” Meyer said about his team’s preseason preparation. “To try and take that next step from maybe a middle-of-the-conference team to a top-tier conference team is just gonna take a lot of effort.”

Meyer said he has his starters and first two substitutions nearly solidified, but he’s still looking for reliable depth past that.

While the Bearcat women have added new faces in the offseason, including assistant coach Chris

Guess and former Maryville guard Anastyn Pettlon, they also return all five starters from last season.

One of the key returners is junior forward Kelsey Fields, who topped the conference with an average of 9.2 rebounds per game.

“I’m really excited to have the group we have,” Meyer said. “We have a group that works hard. It’s been a good, competitive start. Culture is really big with us. We feel like we have really good leadership on this team.”

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Season finale

Maryville volleyball prepares for final game of regular season at home.
see A7

SPORTS

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MIAA Media Day
Northwest basketball teams travel to Kansas City, Missouri, to preview new season.
see A7

Highway 71



Battle for Highway 71 next for Spoofhounds

DESTINY TAYLOR
Sports Reporter | @destinytay04

There’s a black-and-white road sign with the words “Highway 71 Showdown” printed across it. It’s not shiny, and it’s not made of anything special.

But, for Maryville and Savannah football, it might as well be. It’s nothing new — the two teams have grappled with this piece of metal for years. The team that takes the sign earns bragging rights until the next season. One of them has become quite familiar with its ownership.

MHS FOOTBALL

Boys soccer looks ahead to last home match, conference foes

AIDAN BROCKLEMAN
Sports Reporter | @BrocklemanAidan

Maryville boys soccer has two Midland Empire Conference matches coming up against St. Pius X at 5 p.m. Oct. 12 in Kansas City, Missouri, and Savannah at 4 p.m. Oct. 16 at Bearcat Pitch. There are four more contests to go in the regular season for Maryville. With each of the four being conference foes, it could be the Spoofhounds’ path toward their third

consecutive conference title. Coach Matt Stoecklein knows about the potential of winning a conference championship. “Oh, great, excited to do that, just, you know, for the senior group this year,” Stoecklein said. “It’s just awesome to have that chance.” The past two seasons, the ’Hounds have beaten the Warriors. On the road for this campaign, Maryville is undefeated at 2-0. Senior defender Boyd Gallaher said he is anticipating the match against the War-

MHS SOCCER

Maryville softball aims for first district game

TANNER HUDNALL
Missourian Reporter | @NWMSports

Maryville softball is hoping to make the phrase “third time’s a charm” a true statement in the first round of the Class 3 District 8 Tournament against St. Joseph-Benton Oct. 12. The Oct. 12 clash will be the third of the

season between the ’Hounds and Cardinals. Maryville lost the previous two matchups by a combined score of 30-15 in favor of Benton. Maryville will go into districts with a six-game losing streak to end the regular season. The Cardinals started the Spoofhounds most recent losing streak with a 16-12 win Sept. 27. Just because Maryville lost earlier this season against Benton, it doesn’t mean the

MHS SOFTBALL



Northwest football sophomore running back Jay Harris skirts an attempted tackle by Central Oklahoma opponent at the Bearcats’ 34-21 win Oct. 7.

NORTHWEST FOOTBALL

Northwest, Missouri Western set for next meeting in St. Joseph

WESLEY MILLER
Managing Editor | @wesleymiller360

One of the defining features of any rivalry is the back-and-forth nature of the results for those involved. But recently for Northwest football and Missouri Western, that piece has been missing. When the Bearcats next meet the Griffons at 1 p.m. Oct. 14 in St. Joseph, they’ll be protecting a nine-game win streak over their MIAA foe. They’ve won those nine matchups by an average margin of 24.4 points. And, in the last 20 contests between both programs, Northwest has lost twice. For coach Rich Wright, the plan for his team’s in-state rival is the same as it would be for any other squad. “I think, at times, people build this up,” Wright said. “It’s for the fans, the alum-

UP NEXT
NW vs. Missouri Western
1 p.m. Oct. 14
St. Joseph, Missouri

ni and people like that. Yes, it’s a rivalry game — no doubt about it — but, at the same time, I mean, if you’re preparing the way you should be preparing, every week is dialed up.” But, this game isn’t like those last nine wins for Northwest. For the first time since 2012, the Griffons (5-1, 4-1 MIAA), who are led by first-year coach Tyler Fenwick, will enter the contest with a better record than the Bearcats (3-3, 2-3 MIAA).

SEE NORTHWEST | A6



UP NEXT

MHS vs. Savannah
7 p.m. Oct. 13
’Hound Pound

The Spoofhounds have defeated the Sav- ages in 13 consecutive games, sheltering the sign for 11 straight seasons. Outside of the Highway 71 showdown, coach Matt Webb said the rivals have a lot of experience with each other, as multiple athletes from each squad have played youth sports together.

SEE BATTLE | A6

UP NEXT

MHS vs. St. Pius X
5 p.m. Oct. 12
Kansas City, Missouri
MHS vs. Savannah
4 p.m. Oct. 16
Bearcat Pitch

riors and is excited to play. “You know, it’s gonna be probably the biggest game that we’ve had so far,” Gallaher said. “We’re seeing, like, the scores and stuff, and it’s looking like they’re gonna be one of the best teams that we’re gonna play in conference. So, we’re preparing a lot, and we’re working really hard in practice.”

SEE HOME | A6

UP NEXT

Class 3 District 8 Tournament
7 p.m. Oct. 12
St. Joseph, Missouri

’Hounds lack confidence, sophomore first baseman Ella Eckley said. Eckley also said she believes in the players’ ability to bounce back against a familiar opponent. “We’ve played them tough in our past two games,” Eckley said. “I like our chances this time around because they have a lot of trick plays on offense so we kinda know how those are going to look for our defense.”

SEE DISTRICTS | A6



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